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## The Civilian Conservation Corps and the Construction of the Virginia Kendall Reserve, 1933-1939

Angela Sirna

*Middle Tennessee State University*

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local, and family history that should instruct any kind of student. While some passages are windy, even Nettleton's asides remind us of the reasons we love history: people in the past were more surprising than we imagine and anchor our present sense of self by tying us more firmly to those who came before.

*The Civilian Conservation Corps and the Construction of the Virginia Kendall Reserve, 1933–1939*, edited by Kenneth J. Bindas. Kent, OH: Kent State University Press. 146 pp. Map, illustrations, notes, index. \$19.95 paperback.

Reviewer Angela Sirna is a doctoral candidate in public history at Middle Tennessee State University. Her dissertation is "Recreating Appalachia: Cumberland Gap National Historical Park, 1922–1972."

Kenneth Bindas, professor and chair of the Department of History at Kent State University, assigned his students to study the New Deal history of a familiar landscape—Virginia Kendall Reserve (VKR) in Cuyahoga Valley National Park, located between Akron and Cleveland, Ohio. VKR was established in 1933 as a state park project for the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC), a New Deal program that put unemployed young men to work on conservation projects. Bindas's students drew on government documents, oral histories, historical photographs, and other primary sources to examine the park's creation and the CCC experience. Bindas edited his students' best papers and presents them in this volume.

In August 1933 Harold Wagner, landscape architect and director of the Akron Metropolitan Park District, requested from the federal government a CCC camp to turn a 430-acre farm into a public park at VKR. Young CCC enrollees immediately set to work when the camp was organized a few months later. The CCC did more than create a park at VKR. It remade young men by inculcating "positive masculine values of work in a modern society" and giving them hope in the nation's future (63). Similarly, VKR planners used modern organizational and planning principles to remake nature as "modern, controlled, designed, and authentic," which Bindas and his students explored through VKR's landscape design (63). In both CCC camp life and VKR's design, they found a New Deal desire to use recreation as a form of learning to create better citizens. The CCC ended in 1942, but much of its work remains to be enjoyed by visitors today. VKR became a popular destination for Akron and Cleveland residents and was absorbed into the Cuyahoga Valley National Recreational Area in 1978.

Bindas did an excellent job leading his students through a process of shared inquiry and blending diverse voices into one cohesive narrative that sheds light on the important interconnection between social and land reform during the New Deal and places that connection squarely on the landscape. Bindas's class project is an admirable example of public history teaching and scholarship. However, the book is perhaps too laudatory of the CCC's accomplishments. The CCC program suffered some notable administrative problems, particularly a high rate of desertion. (See John Salamond, *The Civilian Conservation Corps, 1933–1942: A New Deal Case Study* [1967].) Probing such issues might have opened a poignant discussion.

This book is set in northeastern Ohio, but those interested in New Deal parks across the country will undoubtedly find it a useful starting point for interrogating such landscapes. In Iowa 46,000 CCC enrollees worked on projects in the state, and nearly 41 camps were organized for state park projects. (See Rebecca Conard, *Places of Quiet Beauty: Parks, Preserves, and Environmentalism* [1997]).

*Prairie Boys at War: Korea, volume 1, June–October 1950*, by M. M. Helm. Fargo, N.D.: Prairie Boy Books, 2014. v, 494 pp. Illustrations, maps, notes, appendix, bibliography, index. \$22.00 paperback.

Reviewer Paul M. Edwards is Senior Fellow at the Center for the Study of the Korean War in Independence, Missouri. He compiled *The Korean War: An Annotated Bibliography* (1998).

The Korean War, long known as the “forgotten war,” might perhaps be better identified as the “ignored war.” It is not so much that Americans have forgotten this war as that they have never taken it seriously. Americans have never understood their nation's involvement nor appreciated the cost paid by its young men and women. One aspect of that has been a lack of recognition and respect for those who participated, as well as a lack of understanding of the vast national and international significance of the war itself. This volume makes an effort to correct some of these misunderstandings.

Shortly after the massive efforts of World War II, the United States, caught unprepared, opted to invest in the independence of the Republic of (South) Korea and called its young men and women back into service for a long and deadly war—a war that continues today, and one in which Americans are still involved. Merry Helm has undertaken a massive task with her decision to record the actions and citations of the men and women from the Prairie states who fought in the Korean War. This includes dozens of persons from Iowa. She provides a series of profiles